

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

This Amendment cancels Claims 3-4, 7, 9-10, 17 and 19-20; and amends Claims 1, 5, 8, 15 and 18. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. In particular, support for Claim 1 is found in canceled Claims 3-4. Support for Claim 5 is found in canceled Claims 7 and 9-10. Support for Claim 15 is found in canceled Claims 17 and 19-20. No new matter would be introduced by entry of these amendments.

Upon entry of these amendments, Claims 1-2, 5-6, 8, 11-16, 18 and 21-24 will be pending in this application. Claims 1, 5 and 15 are independent.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing and reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, in light of the remarks that follow.

The present invention provides amphiphilic compounds in which a single hydrophilic group R_0 is coupled to the branched core of a dendritic structure, and a large number of hydrophobic groups are attached at the terminals of dendritic branches. The amphiphilic compounds are capable of stably fixing using intermolecular interactions a water-soluble polymer onto a surface without altering the function of the polymer.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,229,490 ("Tam"). Tam discloses multiple antigen peptide systems in which a large number of peptide antigens are bound to the functional groups of a dendritic peptide core molecule. Tam at abstract; FIG. 1. However, Tam fails to disclose or suggest the independent Claim 1 limitation that " R_0 is a poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, or a poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative"; or the limitation of independent Claims 5 and 15 that "each of R_1 and R_2 is independently an alkyl group". Thus, the rejection over Tam should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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